Quality of Meals Supplied in Express Trains

7841. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State:

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(a) What is the amount charged for a Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian meal in Express Trains of the Indian Railways;

(b) whehter the quality of the food supplied has been checked by the concerned officials during the last two years;

(c) if so, what are their findings; and

(d) if not, what arc the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Current Tariff for Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian meals is as under:

Casserole Meals	Standard Meals
Vegetarian—Rs. 167- 18/	Rs. 13/-
Non-Vegetarian Rs.	Rs. 18/-

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Surprise and regular inspections arc being frequently conducted by the Commercial, Medical and other Railway Officers to check quality of food and standard of service provided on Railways. In case of any irregularities immediate remedial action is taken. Besides, samples of food items arc also collected by the Health Department for laboratory tests and the Staff/contractor concerned are also suitably taken up if the same arc found sub-standard/adultciated etc.

(d) Does not arise.

Curtailment in Wagon Procurement

7842. SHRI JALALULIN ANSARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has decided to cut down wagon procurement this year; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the wagons procured from Braithwaite & Company Limited, during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and proposed for 1994-95 and the reasons for cutting down the procurement?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of wagons procured from Braithwaite from 1992-93 onwards are as follows:

Year		No. (four wheelers)
1992-93	—	3707.5
1993-94	—	2120
1994-95 (Target)	—	1220

Traffic offerings to Railways not picked up as per projections. In addition, Railways have also initiated steps to improve the asset utilisation especially in the face of the resource crunch. The net result of all these measures is reduction in wagon requirement.

Construction of Railway Projects/Railway Lines in Haryana

7843. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Haryana continues to be neglected by the Railways for years as no new Railway project/Railway line has been contructed/being constructed in the

State;

(b) whether major towns/cities of the State remain unconnected with State Capital or *inter se* between various districts causing hardships/setback to the development of the State;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to connect Hissar-Barwala with Narwana junction and further to link the same with Scmand-Patiala upto Chandigarh; and

(d) whether the Railway Ministry propose to connect Ambala-Pehowa-Kaithal which falls in a rich agricultural land?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. Haryana is well served by anefficient and extensive rail network.

(b) No, Sir. With the conversion of Bhatinda-Hissar-Rewari, being completed by 30.06.94 even those towns which were not connected to Chandigarh owing to being on M.G. will now get connected.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Completion of Jakhapura-Banspani rail line, Orissa

7844. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State:

(a) the target date fixed for the completion of Jakhapura-Banspani line in Orrisa;

(b) the progress made so far in the construction of that line;

(c) the progress expected by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the amount allocated for that project so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Target date for completion not yet fixed because environmental clearance tor the complete project has not yet been received from the Ministry of Environment.

(b) 33 kms. line Jakhapura-Daitari completed. Earthwork commenced on 100 - kms of the route out of 124 kms. cleared by Ministry of Environment.

(c) Depends upon environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment for the project as a whole and the availability of resources.

(d) Funds allocated for the Project so far are as follows:

1992-93	Rs. 10 crores
1993-94	Rs. 25 crores
1994-95	Rs. 23 crores.

Quality of Food Supplied in Delhi-Howrah Express

7845. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State:

(a) whether he has recently received any complaints about the bad quality of food being served on Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express;

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard;

(c) whether he would furnish details of the improvements made in the catering units as well as in the quality of food served on this train; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Some Hon'ble Members of Parliament have sent their observations for improvement in Catering Service on this train which are being acted upon depending on feasibility.

(c) and (d) Cooking of meals is being undertaken at modernised Base kitchens. Drinking water in sealed bottles of 1000 ml. capacity arc now being served to all the passengers on this train. Beside existing a-la-carte items snacks and soup from reputed companies have also been introduced. Special care is also being